

item appeared in the Hindustan Times on 19.9.2006 wherein a report published by an NGO Toxics Links has been quoted. This study, which reports high levels of cadmium and lead in PVC used in soft toys is required to be authenticated/validated and analysed in the context of the regulatory mechanism. Bureau of Indian Standards has laid down some safety codes for the toy manufacturers which prescribe maximum acceptable element migration from toy materials.

### **Cancer among children**

†1121. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 60 to 70 thousand new cases of cancer among children are coming into light every year in the country and out of them 50 to 60 per cent patients die;

(b) whether none of the hospitals in the country exclusively caters to the needs of the children and there are nominal number of medical apparatuses and specialists available in all the hospitals;

(c) if so, whether keeping in view the increasing number of cases of cancer among the children, Government would provide appropriate medical apparatuses and specialists in all the hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government would also formulate a policy for the treatment of cancer among children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, Delhi, the data from Population Based Cancer Registry, shows that approximately 25000 new cases of cancer occur among children and 20% (approximately) of them die to cancer.

(b) to (d) Health is State subject. However, there is Kalawati Children Hospital attached to Lady Hardinge Medical College under the Central Government. In addition, the Central Government hospitals like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Jawaharlal Nehru Institute for Post-Graduate Medical Education & Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry, etc. are well-equipped to provide specialized treatment for cancer.

(e) The treatment of cancer is by surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and supportive care. The treatment to cancer requires multi speciality support.

### **Medicinal plant promotion boards**

1122. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up Medicinal Plant Promotion Boards in the country for cultivation and development of medicinal plants;

(b) if so, the States which are selected for setting up of such boards; and

(c) the proposed financial allocation and the functions of the proposed Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set up Medicinal Plants Promotion Boards, However, Government has already set up Medicinal Plants Board as a national level body to look after policy formulation, coordination and implementation of schemes for development of medicinal plants sector in the country. The Medicinal Plants Board has facilitated setting up of 35 State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPBs) in all States/UTs for coordination of activities and implementation of schemes at State/UT levels.

An allocation of Rs. 50 crore has been made for National Medicinal Plants Board during the current financial year. The National Medicinal Plants Board is providing funds for implementation of programmes in States/UTs under its schemes keeping in view the proposals received from the SMPBs and the organizations in States/UTs. The Board is also providing funds for setting up nucleus center at SMPB and its maintenance @ Rs. 10.00 lakh and Rs. 5.00 lakh respectively.